

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-21 are pending in the application, with claims 1-4, 6-7, 9, and 12 being the independent claims. New claims 13-21 are sought to be added. The claims have been amended to bring them into conformity with U.S. claim drafting conventions and to correct typographical errors. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

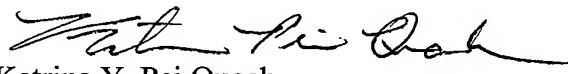
Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 3-12 and for the new claims is found, *inter alia*, in the original claims as filed. Support for the amendments to claim 2 is found, *inter alia*, in the specification, at page 15, line 21 - page 16, line 10 of the published application.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 18, 2006

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